(c) what are the main factors identified by Government for the unchecked rise in inflation and Price Index and what measures are contemplated by Government to contain the continued acceleration in the rate of inflation which is weakening the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The annual rate of inflation during the first seven months of the current financial year (1988-89) in terms of Wholesale Price Index (1970-71=100) measured on a point to point basis decreased from 10.6 per cent (end March, 1988) to 6.6 per cent (end October, 1988) as against an increase from 5.3 per cent to 7.3 per cent in the corresponding period last year (1987-88).

(b) The Wholesale Price Index rose from 418 4 on 26th March, 1988 to 437.5 on 12th November, 1988 (latest available) during the current financial year.

(c) The increase in Price Index has been mainly due to normal seasonal factors. The annual rate of inflation has actually come down from 10.6 per cent at the end of March to 6 per cent on 12th November, 1988.

The Government has been keeping a close watch on the price situation and has taken measures to keep them under check. These include strengthening of the Public Distribution System, import of essential commodities, strict economy in Government expenditure, mopping up excess liquidity in the economy and measures to encourage higher production.

**Revenue loss to Government due to suspension of Jackpot pool**

2527. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Race Club has suspended the Jackpot pool and three Leg Pool recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the closures of these pools now which were in operation for the last twenty years;

(c) whether Government are aware of huge revenue loss suffered due to the suspension of these pools; and

(d) by when Delhi Race Club is going to continue these pools again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Depletion of forest area by various industries**

2528. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total forest area depleted in the country between the period 1978-88 due to the setting up of various industries, industrywise;

(b) what is the area replanted by these industries during the above period: and

(c) whether any action has been taken against any industry for any violation in this regard, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) No survey has been carried out to assess the total forest area depleted or replanted by various industries during the period 1978 to 1988

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.